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ABSTRACT

This book is intended to help the elementary classroom teacher to develop an understanding of why music education is important, how music education works, and how music can be a powerful force for the teacher. Based on realistic expectations, the teacher does not need music theory or performance skill in order to understand the content of the book. The elements of music are presented through classroom activities very similar to those that occur in typical elementary music classes. The text does not attempt to persuade the classroom teacher to teach music, but focuses on developing a broad perspective of elementary music education. The book illustrates how classroom teachers may use music as a powerful learning tool. A major emphasis of the text is that classroom teachers can utilize music to enhance the overall learning environment of their classrooms. Suggestions, class descriptions, and lesson plans are given for using music for routine activities, whole language, integrating music into language arts and social studies, and using music to develop the cultural literacy of students. The material in the text is presented in five sections: (1) music education philosophy and practice; (2) understanding the elements of music; (3) child development and learning theory in music; (4) contemporary approaches to elementary music education; and (5) music to enhance the learning environment. When possible the material is validated by the results of contemporary research in music education. Most songs and materials are provided. In many instances specific resources are suggested. A sequential arrangement of folk songs is presented at the conclusion of the text. (DK)

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